

**REMARKS**

The Examiner has required new corrected drawings. The drawings have been amended to label the various blocks in the figures.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in view of Thornton, "Linux on the System/390" and U.S. Patent 6,725,370 issued to Sakakura. The present invention is not directed to a specific method of implementing compartments, but rather to the usage of the compartment method to provide a novel approach to network management. This is useful in network management of telecommunication systems and network elements therein, since network elements can be shared by independent operators from different carriers who wish to protect access to their respective network management systems.

The Examiner states that Thornton teaches a network management/element system/method sharable by a plurality of operators. While Thornton appears to teach the use of compartments, Thornton does not teach a network management system (claim 1 of the present application) nor a method of controlling access to a network element in a communications system (claim 8 of the present application). The Examiner has also not indicated where Thornton or Sakakura teaches that each operator accesses a network management system, as recited in claim 1 of the present application, or that each operator accesses a network element, as recited in claim 8 of the present application. Claims 2 to 7 are dependent on claim 1 and include the same limitations discussed above. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 to 8 are not obvious in view of Thornton and Sakakura.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims at present on file and as amended herein are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and action to this end is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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**IN THE DRAWINGS**

Please replace the page of drawings with the two new pages of drawings enclosed herewith, containing Figures 1 and 2.